

County of Richmond. To "do good to those" that despoilfully use you and abuse you" is certainly a Christian virtue, but we doubt if the Legislature is quite ready to vote such a liberal reward to hospital incendiaries.

THE POLITICAL EQUILIBRIUM.

Prince Gorchakoff's words on the settlement of the Trent difficulty deserve to be remembered. They have a broader significance every hour that the rebellion lasts. "I beg of you," said the Russian Minister, addressing the Ambassador at Washington, "to express to the Federal Government the assurance of satisfaction it would give His Imperial Majesty to see the American Union strengthened by conciliatory measures of a nature to regulate the present without bequeathing germs of discord for the future, and to see it restored to that condition of strength and prosperity which we desire for it, not only on account of the cordial sympathy which unites the two countries, but because also the maintenance of its power is of the highest importance to the general political equilibrium." We shall gain little by hiding from ourselves the fact that the influence of this country, which, before the civil war commenced, aided so materially in determining the balance of power, must be in a great measure set aside for the time, if the Republic on our southern boundary is to be parcelled out for the benefit of the Western Powers of Europe, or handed over as a play-thing for an Austrian Prince. The power which the Government possessed must have departed, at least temporarily, if it comes to such issue, and we can no longer boast of the ability to arrest or even partially disconcert the projects of avarice or ambition which lie at the basis of the armed intervention on this continent. It is, besides, impossible to escape the conviction that every step of indirect hostility to the Government of the United States abroad, whether in the shape of protection to the piratical vessels of the Rebels, or the furious arming of the Provinces on our northern frontier, has been prompted mainly with a view to the dreaded influence of this country in the settlement of national affairs, and that the immediate commercial interests affected by the rebellion are altogether of subordinate account in the reckonings of England, France, and the subordinate Power which they have taken into temporary partnership.

We can hardly assign to Prince Gorchakoff's words the merit of prescience, although they point in a measure to the future which the Western Powers of Europe are eager to see meted out for the Government and the people of these United States. The Imperial Minister must have seen as clearly as we see here, that the game of the Allies was one that, looking to the political character with which it was from the first invested, would only have been attempted under circumstances like the present. He must have perceived that the bravery of the allied attack was as conspicuous in view of the rebellion in this country, as in the odds at which the neighboring Republic stood in point of resources and defensive armaments. And with the position so well defined before him, we can hardly wonder that the only first-class Power which really sympathizes with this country should see reason to look forward with earnestness to the speedy suppression of the rebellion as the best guarantee the world can have for "the maintenance of the general political equilibrium."

Certain journals that know a good deal better are making a great mystery of the publication of Gen. Fremont's Defense in THE TRIBUNE, wondering by whose authority it was done, and certifying that the Joint Committee of Congress did not authorize it! Washington correspondents are particularly wishful in the premises. If anybody in Washington feels aggrieved by this publication, they will not have to go far to find the gentleman who authorized the publication, and who asks no one to share the responsibility. Those who read the defense itself need not be told that it makes no pretense of being authorized by any one but Gen. Fremont himself. Congress was asked to give him a hearing before the country, but hesitated. Having endured in silence so long as there seemed a public necessity for so doing, Gen. Fremont spoke out.

Mr. Jeff. Davis, in his recent Inaugural, boasted that there have been no outrages, no suspension of the habeas corpus, no despotism, under his rule. (This was before he suspended the habeas corpus in Richmond and arrested John M. Botts and other suspected Unionists.) The Memphis Avalanche, soon after receiving the news of Fort Donelson's surrender, thus cheerfully enunciated:

"We have stated that persons in this city—traitors at heart, base and cowardly—yesterday refused to accept of the Trent Notes in payment of debts due them. These men, wherever they are, and whatever their position in the country, should be placed on the black list, as worse than enemies of the Southern cause—more so, because they are in our hour of tribulation and trial. Any man who refuses to receive these Notes expresses a doubt as to the success of our cause, and evidences his unwillingness to make any pecuniary sacrifices in its behalf. Let such traitors be pointed out and outlawed from all association with Southern gentlemen, if they are even allowed to remain longer in our midst."

—If that doesn't make the notes go again, they must be near the end of their rope.

Once more we pray Congress to concur with the Finance Committee of the Senate in striking from the House bill the appropriation of \$15,000,000 for new Gun-Boats that cannot be ready for use till long after the rebellion ought to be put down. The Finances are precarious; the prices of ship-timber are exorbitant—far higher than they will be a year hence—and these Gun-Boats can wait. Do let them!

There are two men whose names will forever remain illustrious in the history of the Nineteenth Century. These are ALEXANDER II. of Russia and ABRAHAM LINCOLN of America. They are the great leaders in Man's Emancipation, and will be remembered and honored as far as Freedom is dear to the human heart.

The greatest public document issued since the American Declaration of Independence is President Lincoln's Message of Thursday last.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

Military Appointments in the Senate.

THE OCCUPATION OF COTTON LANDS.

THE FOREIGN MAIL SERVICE.

THE COMPLAINT AGAINST MR. VANDERBILT.

TRANSPORTATION OF ARMY SUPPLIES.

The Construction of Gunboats Stopped.

THE MILITARY NOMINATIONS IN THE SENATE.

The Senate had a long executive session today. There was not a little animated discussion touching the merits of the numerous Generals whose cases were under consideration. The following were confirmed as Brigadier-Generals: Daniel Butterfield, Philip St. George Cooke, Lawrence R. Graham, Eleazer Paine, Wm. W. Burns, George Sykes, D. S. Stanley, L. H. Rousseau Davies, and Wm. A. Richardson, Member of Congress from Illinois. The recent nominations were not reached. Col. John Cochrane's is the first one on the list of those not yet taken up. The promotions for good conduct at Fort Donelson were made at a later date, and so still await confirmation. The nomination of Gen. Gov. Morgan was again passed over, and the probabilities are that it will be withdrawn. The names of Generals Sickles, Gorman, Lockwood, and W. K. Strong were also hung up; so were those of Generals Schuyler, Hamilton, and Cullum, who have places upon Gen. Halleck's staff. The disposition of the Senate is to confirm neither these nor the six Brigadiers on Gen. McClellan's staff, with the single exception, perhaps, of Gen. Barnard, Chief of Engineers in the army of the Potomac.

THE OCCUPATION AND CULTIVATION OF COTTON LANDS.

Senator Wade is entitled to the credit of pressing to a passage, at the earliest practicable moment, Senator Foster's bill for the occupation and cultivation of the cotton and other lands on the Southern coast which the rebellion has decided to the United States. Mr. Wade reported it, without amendment, from the Committee on Territories, and has urged its consideration from time to time, and carried it through the Senate by a majority of nearly two to one, and without useless discussion. If the lower House will be equally prompt, the bill can become a law before the seedtime is past. The Yeas and Nays upon its passage were as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Anthony, Chandler, Clark, Collamer, Dixon, Fessenden, Foot, Foster, Grimes, Hale, Harlan, Howe, King, Lane (Ind.), Merrill, Pennington, Sherman, Simmons, Sumner, Ten Eyck, Trumbull, Wade, Willey, Wilson (Mass.)—26.

NAYS—Messrs. Browning, Canby, Cowan, Davis, Hendricks, Johnson, McKim, Morrill, Newell, Rice, Salisbury, Thompson, Wilson (Mo.), Wright—10.

Mr. Harris was in his seat but did not vote. Mr. Doubtless voted "No," ten minutes previously, on the question of taking up the bill, but was absent on the final vote. Mr. Willey's vote for the bill was unexpected, inasmuch as he has generally voted with his colleagues, Mr. Carlisle, who vehemently opposed the bill, considering it from a pro-Slavery point of view.

FOREIGN MAIL SERVICE.

The Senate Post-Office Committee reported back Mr. Sumner's bill to provide for carrying the mails from the United States to foreign ports with one or two slight amendments. The Committee added to section 2 of Mr. Sumner's bill the following:

Any vessel clearing from a foreign port or place for or to any port or place in the United States, shall take and receive any mail or mail matter placed on board said vessel by the United States Consul or by the Post-Office officers of said port or place, and shall deliver the same to the Post-Office of the place addressed in the United States.

MR. VANDERBILT'S REFUSAL TO TAKE THE ASPENWALL MAIL.

The following is a copy of the letter of Postmaster-General Blair to the Post-Office Committee of both Houses in regard to Mr. Vanderbilt's refusal to carry the mails to Aspenwall:

GENTLEMEN: I have received formal notice from Mr. Vanderbilt, controlling the steamship line to Aspenwall, that he will not take the South Pacific or any other mail after the 21st inst. This is an attempt to coerce Congress to contract with him on his own terms for carrying these mails. I called the attention of Congress to this matter in my report of the 12th inst. and the Senate has since passed a resolution requiring the railroad companies upon the Government in any manner.

I trust suitable measures will be adopted to maintain the public interest in that behalf. But this attempt to coerce Congress requires immediate attention. Unless something is done at once, vast mercantile interests will be seriously affected. My own opinion is that the South Pacific or any other mail after the 21st inst. should be required to take mails to their points of destination upon such terms as are now or may hereafter be allowed by Congress, as the condition of clearance. It is not pretended that the compensation now given is not sufficient for the service rendered. No private persons pay for their kind of transportation at the same rates paid by the Government for its kind. No private person is allowed to make out of it. And no persons are so much benefited incidentally as the owners of the ships for the loss of the correspondence relating to the trade carried on by their vessels.

Yours respectfully, M. BLAIR.

Postmaster General.

Contracts for the transportation of army supplies for the next two years from Fort Leavenworth and Kansas City to posts west of these points, including all in Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, Colorado, and New-Mexico, were today awarded by Gen. Meigs to Irwin, Jackson & Co., the former contractors, their bid being regarded as the one most favorable to the Government.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF STEAM GUNBOATS.

The action of the Senate Committee on Finance in unanimously rejecting the appropriation of fifteen millions in the Navy Appropriation bill for the construction of steam gunboats has put a stop to the construction of these vessels. The Department has addressed a letter to the Naval Committee of both Houses, stating that these vessels are absolutely required. The unanimous recommendation by the Finance Committee to strike out this appropriation will probably defeat the measure.

RAILROAD TO BALTIMORE.

The Senate Military Committee have had before them for some time a proposition to construct a railroad from Washington to Baltimore.

more through the upper counties of Maryland, by which it is said that the fare will be reduced to 70 cents per head, to connect with other roads extending North.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Friday, March 7, 1862.

CONFIRMATIONS.

The Senate to-day confirmed the following as Brigadier-Generals of volunteers:

Major Lawrence Graham of the 2d Cavalry. Eleazer Paine of Illinois. Win. A. Richardson of Illinois. Daniel Butterfield of New York. W. T. Ward of Kentucky. Major George Sykes of the 12th Infantry. Capt. David S. Stanley of the 10th Cavalry. Thomas A. Davies of New York. Col. Philip St. George Cooke of the 2d Cavalry. Capt. Joseph B. Plummer of the 1st Regiment of Infantry. For gallant conduct at Springfield and Fredericktown, Mo.

The Senate also confirmed Henry Van Rensselaer to be Inspector-General, with the rank of Colonel, and Thomas Hillhouse of New-York to be an Assistant Adjutant-General of Volunteers, with the rank of Major.

DEPARTURE OF GOV. JOHNSON AND OTHERS.

Gov. Andrew Johnson, accompanied by his Colonel, Robert Johnson, William A. Browning, Secretary, &c., the Hon. Horace Maynard, and the Hon. Emerson Etheridge, Clerk of the House, left Washington this afternoon for Nashville, via Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Louisville.

THE DISASTER TO THE MISSISSIPPI.

The following official dispatches have been received at the Navy Department.

U. S. STEAMER MOUNT VERNON, } OFF WILMINGTON, N. C., March 1, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that yesterday I discovered a vessel to the southward and eastward, at 11 A. M. I got under way and stood for her, and soon discovered her to be a vessel on shore on the "Flying Fish" schooner. On nearer approach, she proved to be a large steamer with the American flag, and having on board a large number of passengers, and a great many of them were women and children. I was informed by one of the officers on board that the vessel was the steam-transport Mississippi from Boston, for Ship Island, Mississippi, having Major General Sherman, Major General Sherman, and a large number of passengers on board. I was informed by one of the officers on board that the vessel was the steam-transport Mississippi from Boston, for Ship Island, Mississippi, having Major General Sherman, Major General Sherman, and a large number of passengers on board. I was informed by one of the officers on board that the vessel was the steam-transport Mississippi from Boston, for Ship Island, Mississippi, having Major General Sherman, Major General Sherman, and a large number of passengers on board.

U. S. GEN. GEORGE TAYLOR, SAVANNAH, TENN., } OFF WILMINGTON, N. C., March 1, 1862.

QUIET ON THE POTOMAC.

Intelligence from every part of the military line of the Potomac to-day reports nothing of material interest.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

DISASTER TO THE STEAMSHIP MISSISSIPPI—CAPTURE OF THE SCHOONER BRITISH QUEEN.

FORTRESS MONROE, Friday, March 6, 1862.

By the steamer Mount Vernon, which arrived here yesterday afternoon, we hear of a serious disaster to the steamship Mississippi, chartered by the Government to carry troops to Ship Island, which sailed hence with Gen. Ben. Butler and staff on board a few days since.

On Friday morning last the Mississippi ran into Frying Pan Shoals, stranding a large hole in her bows. She was hauled off in the afternoon by the Mount Vernon, and proceeded on Saturday afternoon. The Mississippi was provided with water-tight compartments, and she would probably reach Port Royal in safety, where her troops can be disembarked and her damage repaired. She was placed in charge of one of the officers of the Mount Vernon, who will take her to her destination.

The Mount Vernon left Wilmington on Monday last.

The Fernandina was still there, and the sloop-of-war Jamestown was blockading a new inlet.

The State of Georgia, Gemsbok and Albion were at Beaufort.

The Mount Vernon has not received a mail for forty days.

The Mount Vernon took a prize on Friday last, the British schooner British Queen, which was attempting to run the blockade. She was sent with a prize crew to Philadelphia. The crew of the captured schooner were brought here by the Mount Vernon.

The Constitution sailed to-day.

The Suwanee arrived this morning, and is expected to leave for Havana to-night.

A magnificent set of colors, consisting of an American flag and blue flag, with the arms of the City of New-York, was presented to the 10th Regiment New-York Volunteers this afternoon by Gen. Wool. They were presented by the City of New-York. Appropriate speeches were made by Gen. Wool and Col. Bendix, and the whole affair passed off with complete success.

The steamboat Flora arrived from New-York this morning. She carries the revenue flag.

A flag of truce which was sent out yesterday afternoon did not have any communication with the enemy.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTH-WEST.

St. Louis, Friday, March 7, 1862.

The following is taken from a late copy of THE VAN BUREN (Ark.) Express:

A letter has been received at Van Buren from Richmond stating the probability that Gen. Bragg, commanding at Pensacola, will be appointed to the command of the Arkansas Department.

Col. Sim's Texas regiment, which has been acting with Cooper's command in the Indian Country, had arrived at Fort Smith.

An artillery company was organized at Little Rock.

The commandant at Fort Smith advises for twelve gunboats, and also offers to buy good arms.

Gen. Price is getting along poorly in raising a brigade of infantry, for which he called upon Western Arkansas.

Recruiting officers say that a draft is inevitable.

The Memphis papers of the 26th say that Gen. Pillow, in response to an urgent call, made a short, interesting, and eloquent speech, last night, explaining the circumstances of the battle of Fort Donelson and the cause of its capitulation. He made an urgent appeal to Tennesseans to rush to arms, if they would sustain the renown gained on other fields.

He said the present was full of gloom, but the future was hopeful. If our armies will only fight as gallantly as did the dauntless spirits who were overwhelmed at Fort Donelson, Southern independence will be achieved as certainly as he then addressed the audience.

The Appeal says the speech of Gen. Pillow evinced the same courageous and fearless spirit which he has always exhibited in the field—that of invincibility.

TRADE WITH NASHVILLE, TENN.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Friday, March 7, 1862.

The military restrictions on trade between Northern ports and Nashville, Tenn., have been removed.

FROM THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

The Fight at Pittsburgh Landing.

COM. GWIN'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

More Noble Work by our Gallant Sailors.

REBEL FORCES ALONG THE RIVER.

UNION MAJORITIES IN SOUTHERN TENNESSEE.

ALL THEY WANT IS ARMS.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, March 7, 1862.

The following official report of the gallant affair on the Tennessee River, of which we have published the telegraphic summary was forwarded to the Navy Department by Flag-Officer Foote.

U. S. GEN. GEORGE TAYLOR, SAVANNAH, TENN., } OFF WILMINGTON, N. C., March 1, 1862.

SIR: Having learned that the Rebels had occupied and were fortifying a place called Pittsburgh, nine miles above, on the right bank of the river, the best point on the river for that purpose, I determined to attack them. At 12 m. the Taylor, followed by the Lexington, Lieut. Commanding Shirk, proceeded up the river. When within twelve hundred yards of Pittsburgh the Rebels opened upon the Taylor with a battery, consisting of six or eight field pieces, some rifled.

Getting within 1,000 yards, the Taylor and Lexington opened a well-directed fire, and we had the satisfaction of silencing their batteries. We then proceeded abreast of the place, and under the cover of grape and canister, landed two armed boats from each vessel, containing, beside their crews, a portion of Col. G. C. Roper, of the 33d Illinois Sharpshooters, Second Master Jason Gandy commanding the boats of the Taylor, and Quartermaster Dunham commanding the boats of the Lexington. The landing was successfully accomplished, and this small force actually drove back the Rebels and held them in check until they accomplished their difficult object, which was to discover their real strength and purpose, and to destroy a house in close proximity to the place where the batteries were.

I found in addition to their artillery they had a force of not less than two regiments of artillery and infantry, and a regiment of cavalry. In conclusion, I have to state that the result was entirely satisfactory. Their batteries were silenced in a short time. The landing was effected, the house destroyed, and we discovered from their breastworks that they were preparing to fortify strongly this point. Two men were taken from the Rebels, and given to Lieutenant-Commanding Shirk for the efficient manner in which his vessel was handled. My thanks are due to Capt. Phillips, Lieut. Rider, and their men for the gallant manner in which, in the face of the enemy, they charged up the hill, drove back and held in check the Rebels until the boats' crews had effected the destruction of the house. The officers and men of this vessel behaved with the greatest spirit and enthusiasm.

Much praise is due to first master Edw. Shaw, and third master Jas. Martin, for the efficient manner in which the batteries were worked. I would particularly call your attention to the gallant conduct of Quartermaster Jason Gandy, in charge of the boats in shore, who succeeded in destroying the house under such heavy fire, and gunner Herman Peters in charge of the howitzer, who displayed the greatest courage and courage although exposed to the whole fire of the enemy, all of which he bravely sustained. My thanks are also due to pilots Hiner and Sebastian for their coolness under such a tremendous fire of musketry, our vessel being perfectly riddled with balls. My aid, Acting Paymaster Coleman, rendered me valuable aid during the action.

I have sent Lieutenant-Commanding Shirk to Cairo with the transport Irene, loaded with the boats and crew, and I left at Clifton. I shall remain about here, paying Pittsburgh a daily visit, which I hope will prevent the Rebels from accomplishing their object. Capt. Shirk will lay before you the importance of keeping open this as well as other points above here. I have heard from trustworthy authority that the Rebels have some 4,000 troops at Florence, 5,000 or 6,000 in and about Eastport and Luka, near Bear Creek bridge, and that they are fortifying in that vicinity. You will see, therefore, the necessity of my remaining here.

We expended 95 shell, 30 stand of grape, 10 of canister, and 67 round of sharpshooters, etc., from howitzer.

Inclosed is Acting Assistant-Surgeon Kern's report of casualties.

I feel confident we inflicted a severe loss on the enemy, as several bodies were seen on the ground and many seen to fall. Respectfully,

WM. GWIN.

Lieut.-Com. Div. of Gunboats on Tennessee River.

To Flag-Officer A. H. Foote.

St. Louis, Friday, March 7, 1862.

A special dispatch to THE ST. LOUIS DEMOCRAT dated Cairo, 6th inst., says, that Lieut. Gwin of the gunboat Tyler, reached here last night from the Tennessee River.

The enemy had not resumed their attempt to fortify Pittsburgh Landing.

Lieut. Gwin landed under a flag of truce, and was permitted to go a mile from the river before being stopped by the pickets of the enemy.

The object of Lieut. Gwin was to obtain an exchange of prisoners, which had been taken last Saturday.

On the morning after the engagement, 9 dead bodies and 100 wounded were found in the encampment of the enemy, which had been removed three miles from the river.

Lieut. Gwin thinks the loss of the Rebels after the engagement was 20 killed and 200 wounded. Their force engaged was 1,000 infantry, 500 cavalry, and six pieces of artillery.

At Corinth, Miss., eighteen miles from the Tennessee River, the Rebels have 1,500 or 2,000 troops.

At Henderson Station, a mile from the Tennessee River, were from 800 to 1,000 of the enemy.

It was reported that the Rebels were fortifying Chickasaw.

The result of the recent election in Hardin and McNary Counties shows the strength of the Union sentiment in southern Tennessee. The former gave 500 out of 1,000 votes for the Union candidate, and the latter 200 majority out of 1,300 votes.

Lieut. Gwin says that the cry of the people is to "send us arms and sufficient force to protect us from organizing ourselves, and we will drive the Rebels out of Tennessee ourselves."

A second visit to Columbus has revealed many facts of interest. Col. Buford, who has made a complete examination of the earthworks, says they are six miles long.

EXECUTION OF A SOLDIER.

BALTIMORE, Friday, March 7, 1862.

Private Joseph H. Kuhns, of the 3d Maryland Regiment, will be hung at Fort McHenry to-day for the murder of Lieut. J. Davis Whitson, between the hours of 12 and 3 o'clock, in the presence of the whole division of Gen. Dix. The military are now assembling and marching to the fort.

THE UNION GUNBOAT TUSCARORA.

Boston, Friday, March 7, 1862.

The Union gunboat Tuscarora remained near Gibraltar Feb. 15. She had changed her anchorage from Algebras to Orange Grove, bringing her within three miles of the steamer Sumter, but still in Spanish waters.

FROM CAIRO.

Profound Military Mystery—Who Planned the Attack upon Fort Henry and Fort Donelson—The Gunboats—The Secret to a Remittance from the South—Latest from Memphis—Price of Gold in New Orleans—A Rebel Editorial—Latest from Columbus.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CAIRO, Ill., Monday, March 3, 1862.

Mystery is the order of the day. We could an if we would, but we won't. So we shake our heads wisely, enshroud all simple things in mystery, treat all journalists as if they were fools or scoundrels, and thus cause every description of false and malicious reports to go forth and mislead the public.

Thus, while the battle at Fort Donelson was progressing, and a dozen journalists were there reporting it, a gentleman representing a loyal and reputable newspaper, who had arrived too late, remained here for three days, trying to obtain permission to go up and join his collaborators; it was steadily refused, and only left him the alternative, which he finally accepted, of going up in a fictitious character. Thus the commander of this post—Gen. Cullum—who is also the censor of the telegraph, struck out of a dispatch a few days since the simple statement: "The mortar-batteries are nearly completed," which had been published, days before, in half the journals of the country. Thus, while three flags of truce were sent to Columbus last week, and a reconnaissance of the gunboats went thither yesterday, strict orders have been given that not a word of information shall be imparted by the officers sent, as to whether Columbus is evacuating or not; and all telegraphic reports on that subject are based upon mere surmise. Thus Gen. Cullum issued positive orders that no one whatever should accompany our officers bearing the flags of truce, while the Rebel boats which came up to meet them were crowded with spectators. Thus every unfortunate reporter for the St. Louis or Chicago papers, who desires to send a telegram, is often subjected to the labor of wading through the mud an hour or two to find Gen. Cullum, the infliction of hearing that commander indulge in sweeping condemnation of the newspapers, and tedious reminiscences of how things were done when he was on Gen. Scott's staff, and the risk of having his dispatch wait several hours before he finds time to examine it.

And so we are all in doubt as to what is going on at Columbus; though, to let the public know could be of no sort of service to the enemy. Meanwhile, nobody seems to be in any doubt as to whether Gen. Cullum is fit for his position, or Gen. Halleck either, if he gives the orders ascribed to him by his subordinates here. Neither is any one in doubt as to the character of the attempt being made to rob the gallant Commodore Foote of the honors of originating and doing so much to execute the plan of penetrating into the heart of the enemy's country, and giving them to Halleck, McClellan, or Buell. It is singular that Gen. Halleck, in his official dispatches, neglected even to mention that it was Commodore Foote with the gunboats who took possession of Clarksville, Tenn., instead of an officer of the army. By the way, I was wrong in imputing the positive order to Commodore Foote, which prevented him from taking possession of Nashville, to McClellan; it came from Gen. Halleck. The just meed of credit for our recent victories has not been accorded to the navy.

The army did well—the rank and file fought like heroes, and the officers exhibited commendable gallantry; but the arm of the service which strikes most terror into the hearts of the Rebels is the navy. The Rebels in Johnston's army declare that they are ready to meet our land forces, but that they will not fight against the gunboats; and our latest Southern papers give to the gunboats the main credit for the capture of Henry and Donelson, Clarksville, and even Nashville.

I mentioned a month ago, as a noteworthy circumstance, that Capt. A. S. Baxter, the Post Quartermaster here, had received a remittance of \$600 from Georgia to pay an old debt. It seemed to be a commendable instance of personal honor; but fidelity to truth compels me to add the sequel, that the drafts on St. Louis and Chicago, in which the remittance was made, prove to be worthless, and the creditor, instead of being plus \$600, is minus \$475 for the protests and other expenses. Capt. Baxter has now left Cairo, and is in the field with Maj.-Gen. Grant as his chief Quartermaster.

One of our officers who took down the flag of truce on Saturday was Capt. George D. Wise, for many years connected with the Coast Survey. The Rebels were greatly surprised to find a relative of Henry A. Wise among our officers.

The only paper brought back was THE MEMPHIS Appeal of Feb. 28. It contains several advertisements for recruits, to whom a bounty of \$50 each is offered. A telegram from New-Orleans states that gold in that city is in active demand at a premium of from 10 to 15 per cent.

The leading editorial seems to be worth giving in extenso. It is as follows:

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

There is a tone of candor, of confidence, and of determination in the Message of the President to Congress which must inspire new enthusiasm in the Southern heart. He is free to confess the error of his past policy and the extent of the disaster that has followed from it, and we would believe give him in future more in consonance with the spirit and desire of the people, who have reposed the preservation of their liberties in his hands. There is something more significant than the casual reader would suppose in the acknowledgment that "events have demonstrated that the Government has attempted more than it had the power to successfully achieve," in seeking to protect every little exposed point of our territory on the seaboard and the frontier, and the promise of still greater exertions to retrieve past disasters and secure results as favorable to our cause as those which marked the earlier periods of the war, connected with the late provisions in Congress on the subject of adopting an offensive policy, furnish hope, we think, that a vigorous war will soon be made upon the invading columns of the enemy; that we will "attack, pursue, and destroy," instead of being attacked, pursued, and destroyed; that the spending will be dropped and the bayonet resumed. In other words, that the policy of the Fabian Davis will yield to that of the Napoleon Bonaparte.

The first step toward the result should be that intimated by the President—a determination not to defend unimportant points with small bodies of troops, but to concentrate all our forces, as possible, in one or more tremendous armies, and to initiate a new era by carrying the war into the enemy's country. Such, at least, is the hope we entertain in view of the imperative necessities of the crisis, and the indications to preserve our country.

It is pleasing intelligence to the country—emanating from such an authentic source as the President—that the reports of the Secretaries of War and the Navy, show that the resources and power of the Confederacy are "fully equal to meet future events." Nor is this opinion unsupported by facts known to every intelligent man, nor by the statement of our present military strength. We are advised that in thirty days